

SUMMER 2018 Alumni Columns

Northwestern State University Magazine





*Dr. Chris Maggio
1985, 1991
President
Northwestern State
University*

Dear Alumni,

By the middle of this summer, we will have completed seven – yes seven! – Freshman Connection sessions on our Natchitoches, Leesville, Shreveport and Alexandria campuses. Please join me in offering a hearty thanks to all of the hard-working faculty, staff and student ambassadors who work tirelessly to make our incoming freshmen feel welcome, prepared and excited about joining the NSU family.

The countdown to the Fall 2018 semester is on and our staff is busy preparing for a semester packed with academic, service and recreational opportunities. Students will return to refurbished campus bookstores at 912 University Parkway and in the Student Union and the Spirit of Northwestern will take the field outfitted in new uniforms. You are an essential part of making these achievements possible.

As the cycle of learning continues here at NSU, it reminds me of our purpose: transforming lives, fostering personal and intellectual growth and providing a lifetime of memories. We celebrate our recent graduates as they leave here to begin their careers while we prepare to welcome in a new class of Demons.

Thank you for your loyalty and your continued support of Northwestern State University.



*Drake Owens
2004, 2005
Assistant Vice
President of External
Affairs for University
Advancement*

My fellow alumni:

With another academic year soon to begin, we at the NSU Foundation thank you for helping us increase the number of students that we assist with scholarships. Our second annual Flavor of Louisiana event, a highlight of this year's fund raising efforts, was another resounding success and we couldn't do it without you. Your support has a direct impact on enrollment, retention and faculty development.

Thank you also to those of you who attended our recruiting receptions, Alumni After Hours and athletic events to show your support for NSU. Your presence and your help in sharing what Northwestern State means to you means a great deal to our current and prospective students and their parents.

Throughout this summer, our staff has been preparing for a busy fall schedule of events. Follow us on social media to keep up with everything happening. If you haven't visited your alma mater lately, now is a great time to plan a visit. I hope to see you on campus soon.

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STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Jacob Ellis.....Athens, SGA President
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BY THE NUMBERS



11

of Southland Conference gold medals won by De'Shalyn Jones during her college career (She is also a Spring 2018 honor graduate.)

400+

of students, faculty and alumni representing NSU at the University of Louisiana System Day at the Capitol



Flavor of Louisiana

Guest Satisfaction: 100 %
Funds Raised: \$50,000
Volunteers who pitched in: 65+

906

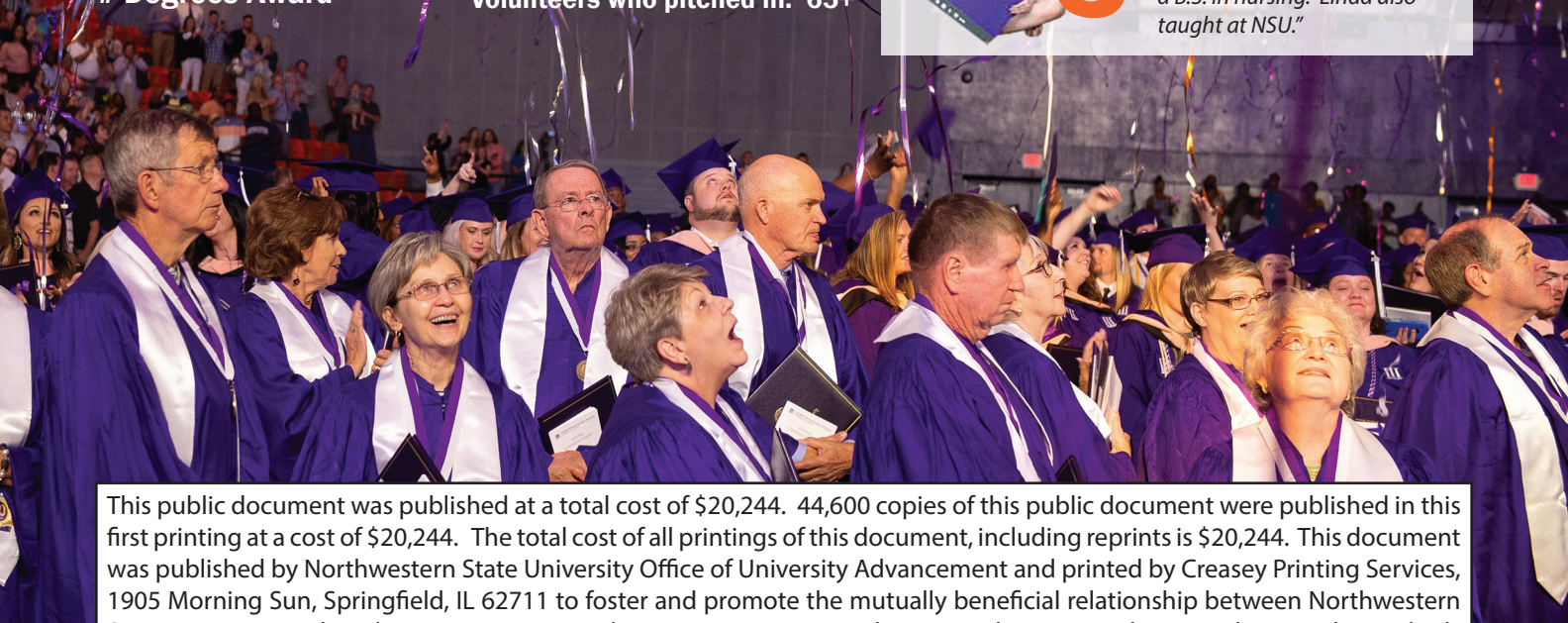
of Spring Grads

922

Degrees Award



The Easley triplets of Minden, Roxy, Layla and Jess, will be among the more than 1,200 incoming freshmen expected at NSU this fall. According to their dad Kerry (1995), "We are a strong NSU family with both my parents Jess (1952, 1962) and Annie Easley (1951, 1964) receiving their bachelor's and master's degrees, my sister Dr. Linda Easley Tidwell (1975, 1989) receiving her bachelor's and master's and I receiving a B.S. in nursing. Linda also taught at NSU."



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Charles Freeman: Pioneer in prosthetics, orthotics

Submitted by Frances Jackson Freeman (1966)

As the 2018 Paralympic Games unfolded in PyeongChang, Northwestern State graduate Charles C. Freeman celebrated his 80th birthday March 6 secure in the knowledge that his life has had a positive impact. Watching

the amputees swarm down the ski slopes at breathtaking speeds, he remembered a winter day in 1973 when he took two dozen brave U.S. amputee veterans to the

slopes of Loveland, Colorado, to test the newly developed VA skiing legs. Those and dozens of other technological innovations that changed the lives of the handicapped were the product of team efforts that Freeman led as research and education officer for the Veteran's Administration Center for Prosthetics and Orthotics.

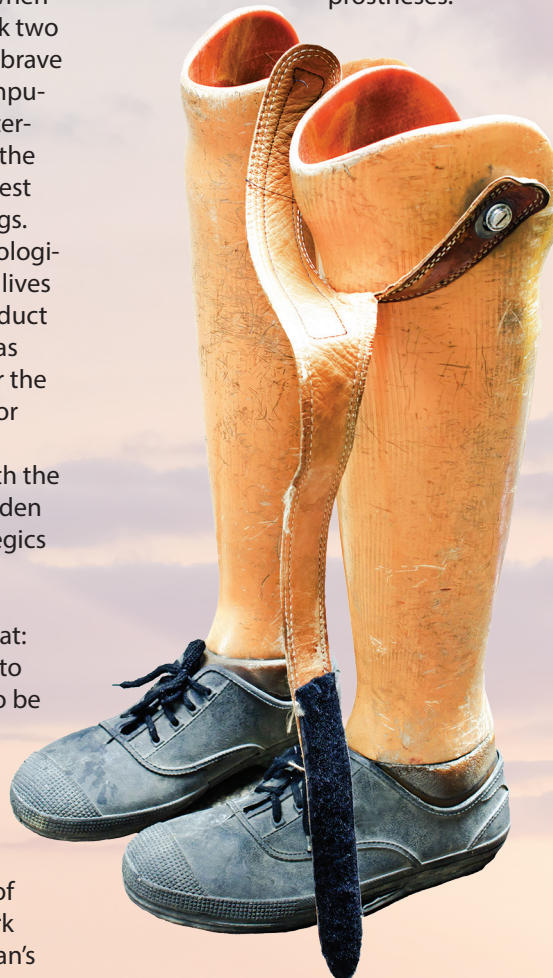
When Freeman began work with the VA in 1961, metal hooks and wooden legs were standard and quadriplegics lived relatively short, pain-ridden lives, confined to beds. In those days, wheelchairs were exactly that: chairs with wheels, poorly suited to the needs of the handicapped. To be part of the rehabilitation revolution, Freeman left his position in rehabilitation medicine at the Shreveport VAMC to move to New York City where, during the first aerospace recession of the 1970s, he brought out-of-work aerospace engineers to the Veteran's Administration Paraplegic Center at Castle Point, New York, and introduced them to paraplegic and quadriplegic veterans. He tied the engineers' arms

and legs and placed them in the primitive wheelchairs that had served the handicapped for decades. Eight hours later, he challenged them to build something better. Today, millions of people enjoy the multitude of specialized mobility products that developed from Freeman's challenge.

Bioengineering and rehabilitation engineering were not the only young professions that Freeman influenced. When veterans expressed dissatisfaction with their crude artificial ears, noses and eyes, Freeman contacted the art department at New York University and found artists interested in helping disfigured veterans by creating personalized prostheses.

orthodontics extended to developing associate degree programs in orthotics and prosthetics at community colleges around the country. UCLA and NYU, where Freeman was adjunct faculty, soon developed bachelor degree programs for professionals in prosthetists and orthotists.

Born March 6, 1938, on the Texas-Louisiana border, he is now retired and lives with his wife of 58 years, the former Frances Jackson, on the same family farm where he was born in a log cabin on the Shelby County/Panola County line that borders the Sabine River. He was the fifth of six sons born to parents who didn't finish high school. He attended Joaquin School first-12th grade graduating in 1956 and attended Panola Junior College on a baseball scholarship and drove a school bus transporting students from Logansport and Joaquin to PJC from Carthage. After earning his AA, he transferred to Northwestern State. He chose NSU because his future wife was already enrolled there. At NSU, he worked as a lifeguard, with the intramural athletic program and with campus security. Charles and Frances married in 1959 and lived in the Vet Village at NSU. He earned his bachelor's degree in May 1960 and two weeks later began work on his master's. He



That early effort led to today's profession of medical art prosthetics. Freeman's impact on prosthetics and

Build something better

also coached basketball at St. Mary's High School.

After receiving his MS degree in administration, Freeman was employed by the Dallas VAMC as a corrective

therapist. On the day JFK was shot, Freeman worked his last shift at the Dallas VAMC. The following week, he transferred to the Shreveport VAMC, where he worked until 1970. In Shreveport, Freeman first became chief of Corrective Therapy, chief of Recreation Therapy, coordinator of Rehabilitation Medicine, and finally chief of Prosthetics, Orthotics and Sensory Aids. In 1970 he accepted the position of Research and Education Officer for the VA Prosthetics Center in New York City, where he worked until 1976, before entering the VA Hospital Director training program. Subsequently, he worked at the Sheridan, Wyoming, VAMC, the Westside VAMC in Chicago, the Dallas VAMC, the San Juan, Puerto Rico VAMC, the Alexandria VAMC, the Bonham, Texas, VAMC and the Southeastern Regional Network. He retired from the VA in 1999.

When Freeman entered the U.S. Army Reserve Medical Corp in 1963, corpsmen's primary responsibility was loading wounded men onto trucks and transports. Over Freeman's military career, the entire organization for delivery of military care was revised and he contributed to many of these changes. Emergency medicine as a medical specialty arose first in the military context and corpsmen were the first trained EMTs. Medical evacuation helicopters with trained paramedics made MASH units obsolete and provided medical care that greatly increased survival rates, which also led to a dramatic increase in the number of severely handicapped veterans.

The high point of Freeman's military career occurred in 1990 when the 94th

General Hospital was activated in support of Operation Desert Storm. As execution officer for the 100-bed general hospital, Freeman left the Alexandria VAMC to oversee one of the first major call-ups of a large reserve medical unit. He took the 972-man unit to Europe where he remained until the last troops were recalled.

He began his military career in 1963 as a "shave-tail," Second Lt. (Viet Nam era), and concluded it in 1993 (post Desert Storm) as a "Bird," Colonel. While he always considered Joaquin, Texas, home, he has lived in six states, Puerto Rico, and Germany, residing in such diverse cities as Dallas, Shreveport, New York City, Chicago, Sheridan, Wyoming; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Alexandria, Bonham, Texas; Frisco, Texas, and Frankfort, Germany.

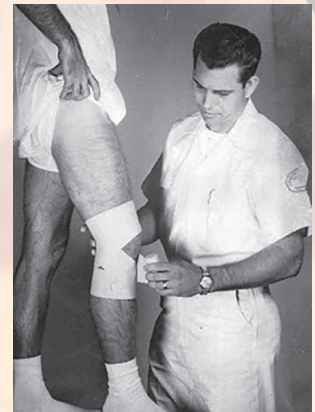
In 1996, Freeman received his call to enter the ministry. In 1997, he became a local pastor in the United Methodist Church, serving first in the Texas conference and then in the Louisiana Conference at Bethel United Methodist Church in Logansport. This was one of the most rewarding and cherished periods of his life.

The Freemans have two daughters and four grandchildren.

Freeman was honored with an 80th birthday celebration at First United Methodist Church of Joaquin with family and friends. His life has come full circle, and he is spending his retirement years on the family farm; but in the intervening three-quarters of a century, he has traveled the world, and participated in amazing and incredible experiences.



Freeman as an NSU student



Charles C. Freeman, 1970 Shreveport VAMC, Chief of Prosthetics and Orthotics

Spotlights



Lauren Hughes
U.S. Air Force Photo by Dennis Rogers

1st Lt. Lauren Hughes (2009) is serving as chaplain with the 50th Space Wing at Scriever Air Force Base in Colorado. A native of Savannah, Georgia, she moved around the country and oversees with her father, a member of the U.S. Army, eventually settling in Houston. She attended NSU, earning a degree in business administration with a concentration in finance before following a desire to serve her country by joining the Army National Guard.

As a new follower of her faith, Hughes felt a calling to do finance ministry, and the Chaplain at Basic Combat Training in Fort Jackson, South Carolina, only strengthened her passion for ministry. She completed the Chaplain Candidate Program in Georgia, then attended Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

She graduated in 2015, and immediately entered the Baylor University Medical Center Clinical Pastoral Education program, where she studied for two years.

Unfortunately, things took an abrupt turn for Hughes when Hurricane Harvey hit Texas. The National Guard was activated, and Hughes received orders to travel to Lufkin.

Although tragic, the three weeks she spent there confirmed her longing to serve military members full time.

"It was something I always knew in the back of my mind but the passion was reignited," Hughes added. I wanted to provide service to people full time."

In November 2016, Hughes contacted an Air Force recruiter, and in December 2017 was selected for active duty.

Hughes moved back to Colorado Springs in March. Hughes hopes to initiate new chaplain-hosted events and activities, like a "Chaplain's Café," where Airmen and spouses can come and participate in spoken word poetry, one of Hughes' passions.

Hughes hopes to guide Airmen and their families through life and take the journey alongside them during her time at Schriever.

"We're all here for a reason in life. My hope is to help people know what that purpose is and who they are inside and outside of the uniform. I want to be a part of that journey," she said.

The U.S. Senate confirmed the nomination of Army Reserve **Col. Susie S. Kuilan** in February with her promotion effective May 1. She will become the deputy commanding general of operations for the 200th Military Police Command, Fort Meade, Maryland. Gen. Kuilan is serving as assistant division commander with 102D Training Division (Maneuver Support), Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. She has served in the military for 30 years. A native of Camden, Arkansas, Kuilan is a 1984 graduate of Fairview High School. She earned a master's degree in English from Northwestern State in 2000, a master's degree in strategic studies from the Army War College in 2011 and a doctorate in English from Louisiana State University in 2010.

The new general has been on a dual track of academic and military postings. She served as an instructor at the University of Arkansas from 2011-2014, and at Arkansas Tech University from 2015 to the present. She is a published scholar in Southern and African-American literature.

Kuilan was a brigade commander for the 2nd Military Police Brigade, 102nd Division (MS), 80th Training Command of the Army Reserve from 2012-2014. She was a Military Fellow for the Chief of Staff of the Army Strategic Studies Group, U.S. Army, from June 2014-June 2015, before her posting to Missouri.

Kuilan is also the dean of Strategic Security and Protection Management for Henley-Putnam University, an online university.

As assistant division commander with the 102D Training Division at Fort Leonard Wood, Kuilan had responsibilities for the nationwide training of Army engineers, military police, and chemical, military intelligence, Signal Corps, and civil affairs and psychological operations soldiers.

Kuilan served in many positions in the 102nd Division. She was deployed to Camp Bucca, Iraq, as a support officer for the Logistics Civilian Augmentation Program Support Unit.

Stephen F. Austin University recognized **Todd Barrios** (1993), clinical instructor in SFA's School of Human Sciences' hospitality administration program, with the Faculty Senate Teaching Excellence Award, which honors non-tenure track faculty members.

A certified executive chef through the American Culinary Federation, Barrios is ServSafe certified in food safety and sanitation and as an instructor. He is a registered ServSafe examination proctor through the National Restaurant Association. Additional focus areas are culinary arts and food service management.

He earned a Bachelor of Science in home economics with a concentration in hospitality and institutional services and a Master of Arts in adult education from NSU.

Barrios is originally from New Orleans and has extensive restaurant management and culinary experience.



Courtney Sharkey

Courtney Sharkey has been named the STEAM Center Administrator for the Allen, Texas ISD. Sharkey has served as the North Forney High School principal since 2014. Prior to her tenure as principal, she served as district STEM and secondary curriculum supervisor for seven years and executive director of Rapides Exploratory Education Center, a children's museum for science,

math and the arts, in Rapides Parish for four years.

She earned her bachelor's degree in English literature and master's degree in educational leadership from Northwestern State University. She is currently pursuing her doctorate of educational administration at Texas A&M Commerce.

Cenergistic, an energy conservation technology company, today announced the appointment of **Samantha Foley** (2005) as vice president of marketing. Foley will be based in Dallas and responsible for leading marketing strategy, branding, communications, sales enablement and lead generation efforts.

Before joining Cenergistic, Foley served as chief marketing officer at Entouch, a smart building solutions provider, responsible for the execution of all marketing activities. Prior to Entouch, Foley served as vice president of marketing and held numerous other marketing roles at Allegro Development, a global provider of commodity trading and risk management software.

Foley holds a bachelor's degree in journalism with concentration in public relations from Northwestern State and an Executive MBA from Texas Woman's University.



Greg Williams

Greg Williams Jr. (2006), artistic director for the New Venture Theatre in Baton Rouge, is the recipient of the 2018 Man-Up Theatre of Arts Award from Patterson Enterprises. Before beginning his role at New Venture 11 years ago, he served as a co-founder of the King Little Theatre and also the Creative Production Company.

Williams' professional theatre background includes working with Don Holder (Tony Award Winning Lighting Designer for Disney's "The Lion King"), The Negro Ensemble Theatre

Company (NYC), Black Theatre Network (New York), The Little Black Box Theatre Company (New Jersey), Northwestern State University and American Family Theatre (Philadelphia.) He conceived the highly acclaimed musicals "Shout!" and "Sweet Georgia Brown," which both played to sold out audiences. As artistic director for **New Venture**, Williams' directing credits include over 35 productions such as August Wilson's "Fences," the regional premiere of "The

Williams is a graduate of Northwestern State University (Bachelor of Arts in theatre), Ellis College of New York (Masters in Business) and the International Association of Assembly Management Performing Arts School (Graduate Certificate.) He has earned many distinctions including a State of Louisiana Commendation for his contributions to the performing arts in the African American community, iHope Award for his dedication to the arts, MLK Leadership Award for leadership in the arts community, The Baton Rouge Links Louisiana Role Model Award for contributions to the performing arts community, and was nominated for the Fichandler Award under the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation. Under his leadership, New Venture has also earned distinction for productions of artistic excellence and highly praised theatrical diversity.



Clay Corley

Clay Corley was named DeSoto Parish Superintendent of Schools and began serving in the role May 9.

Corley has broad educational experience, including 6 years as a District Director and Interim Superintendent in Sabine Parish Schools. Corley is a native of Florien, Louisiana and is a graduate of Northwestern State, where he received a B.S. in Health and Physical Education and a Masters in Educational Leadership.

tional Leadership.

Corley began his career in education in the Vernon Parish School system in 1995. He moved on to Many High School in Sabine Parish as a teacher and coach for six years, before returning to his home at Florien High School, where he worked as a teacher, coach and Assistant Principal before moving to the district office, first as a Supervisor, next as Director of Student Services, and finally as Interim Superintendent through 2011.



Northwestern State University inducted six individuals into the University's alumni hall of distinction, the Long Purple Line, during a luncheon and induction program March 23. Membership in the Long Purple Line is the highest honor the university bestows on alumni. From left are Darryl Willis, Dr. Philip Cole, Dr. Randall Keator representing his father the late Col. Randal D. Keator Sr., Linda Day, Justice James Genovese and Monty Chicola.

Sigma Sigma Sigma marks 90th Anniversary



The Alpha Zeta Chapter of Sigma Sigma Sigma celebrated its 90th anniversary on Northwestern's campus April 13-15. The weekend of festivities began at the Tri Sigma house Friday evening for a welcome reception hosted by the collegiate women. Composites and scrapbooks filled the house as women from the 60s to today took a walk down memory lane. Saturday morning at the Tri Sigma house, a special Omega Chapter Ceremony was held to honor and celebrate those Sigmas who have passed away. Then women enjoyed a guided tour around Northwestern's beautiful campus. Much has changed since some of these women were in school at NSU. Saturday afternoon and into the evening, Sigmas enjoyed the 23rd annual Jazz & R&B Festival on the newly renovated downtown riverbank. Sunday morning, Tri Sigma women of all ages came together to celebrate their Founder's Day, with a special program that touched on the 120 years of the national organization, the 90 years on NSU's campus, and the amazing accomplishments of the collegian women as well as the alumnae chapter. Sunday afternoon was spent enjoying crawfish and jambalaya at the Collins Alumni Pavilion. Women traveled from all over the country to celebrate this sisterhood, and are looking forward to the next event. Tri Sigmas can follow the Alpha Zeta Facebook page to stay in touch: Sigma Sigma Sigma – Alpha Zeta Chapter Alumnae.

Dr. Vickie Parrish inducted into CAPA Hall of Fame

After devoting her life and career to the arts as a professor of theatre for more than 40 years, NSU's Mrs. H.D. Dear Sr. and Alice E. Dear School of Creative and Performing Arts inducted Professor of Theatre Dr. Vicki Parrish into the CAPA Hall of Fame during a program and reception April 21.

"CAPA is honored to induct another one of our own faculty into the Hall of Fame," said Dr. Greg Handel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and director of the School. "Affectionately known as Dr. P., Vicki has influenced the lives of hundreds of students in the Creative and Performing Arts, been an inspiration as a professor and director, been a confidant for faculty and students, been an outstanding advisor and has maintained a tireless commitment to the Creative and Performing Arts and their advancement at NSU and throughout the community. It is only fitting that we honor her with this award."

Parrish joined Northwestern State's faculty in 1977 and has worked as an educator, director and choreographer. She has

"To have an opportunity to work with inspiring colleagues and Northwestern students is a gift."

also been active in the community, serving as president of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches.

"I do a job that I love," said Parrish. "To have an opportunity to work with inspiring colleagues and Northwestern students is a gift. All of the people in our department work so hard. I am stunned and surprised to receive this honor."



Dr. Vicki Parrish is pictured with the cast and crew of "A Streetcar Named Desire," which she directed this spring. Parrish has been on faculty at NSU since 1977.

Parrish earned a bachelor's at West Georgia College and her master's and doctorate at Louisiana State University. After four decades in the classroom, Parrish continues to learn from her students.

"I learn something new every day," she said. "Our students amaze me. They have such a broad vision of a subject and can come up with so many varied interpretations of a play written 500 years ago."

Parrish is the ninth inductee into the CAPA Hall of Fame.

Following the reception in her honor, guests were invited to attend NSU's production of the musical "Into the Woods."

Nominations open for 2018 Hall of Distinguished Educators

Northwestern State University's Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development Alumni Advisory Board is seeking nominations for the Hall of Distinguished Educators for 2018.

Nominees must have earned an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral degree from an NSU teacher preparation program, have at least 30 years experience and must have made significant contributions to the field of education and/or the larger community at a local, state, national or international level. Nominees can be living or deceased.

Nominations are also open for Distinguished Young Professional in Education, an award that recognizes an outstanding young professional

who has made contributions in Pre-K through higher education or to the profession of education through teaching, research or community service. Nominees must be 40 years old or younger, have at least 10 years of meritorious service to education and gained prominence in some areas of teaching, administrative achievement, contributions to research, leadership in professional associations, contributions to professional literature and outstanding community service. Nominees should be of high moral character whose contributions have most fully expressed the spirit of service the award represents.

Inductees will be honored during

a brunch and induction ceremony at the Teacher Education Center during Homecoming festivities Oct. 27.

The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, July 27.

Anyone who would like to nominate an outstanding College of Education alumnus who has had a distinguished career in education should send the nominee's resume and other documentation outlining the reason for the nomination to NSU Gallaspy College of Education and Human Development, Northwestern State University, Natchitoches, LA 71497.

Nomination forms and additional information are available by calling (318) 357-6278.



Second annual Flavor of Louisiana delights crowd with local cuisine, cocktails and music

Nearly 600 guests enjoyed seafood dishes, music and more at Flavor of Louisiana, Northwestern State University's spring fund raiser and celebration of Louisiana cuisine. The March 23 event, presented in partnership with the Louisiana Seafood Board, raised nearly \$50,000 that will support student scholarships, academic programming and professional development for faculty.

Flavor of Louisiana featured 18 chefs from around the state offering samples of both exotic and familiar seafood dishes, as well as barbecue and side dishes for meat eaters, along with six bars with specialty cocktails, craft beers, frozen drinks, coffee and tea. Fund raising booths were also hosted by each college to support their specific programs, as well the Spirit of Northwestern Demon Marching Band uniform fund.

"We have heard nothing but positive feedback. I believe everyone who attended had a wonderful time. There was an endless amount of delicious food provided by chefs all across Louisiana. The cocktails were great and the band played music that had guests out on the dancefloor. We would have never been able to pull off this event if it weren't for the help we received from the faculty, staff and student volunteers," said Rebekah Burleson, event coordinator.

Volunteer Louisiana recognizes alumnae as Champions of Service

Two Northwestern State University alumnae were named 2018 Champions of Service by Volunteer Louisiana. Barbara Jo Pease (1973) was chosen from as Greater New Orleans Champion and Lois Rector (1977) was selected as Capital Area Champion.

Volunteer Louisiana names Champions of Service to honor people, groups and businesses in Louisiana who demonstrate compassion and dedication, leadership and initiative or innovation and creativity in addressing community challenges while serving others. Champions are chosen from a pool of statewide nominees.

Pease has been involved with Louisiana Youth Seminar, a high school leadership program held each summer, since its inception in 1971. She recruits and fundraises for the organization, single-handedly creating a scholarship program. Pease serves with College Track New Orleans, a group that provides extracurricular and academic skills to help students graduate from high school and college. Pease, a member NSU's Long Purple Line, serves on the NSU Foundation Board.



Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser with Jo Pease



Lois Rector with Karen Moss-Barnes

Rector, who has volunteered with Knock Knock Children's Museum since 2015, spends at least three days a week as an ambassador for play and learning. She also chaired the committee that helped create the museum's Art Garden Learning Zone.

Pease, Rector and seven other Champions of Service were honored during National Volunteer Week, during an April 18 gala at the Capitol Park Museum in Baton Rouge.

Billy John Burns still supports the schools he loves: Anacoco High School and Northwestern State University



Billy John Burns, left, continues to support Northwestern State University, most recently through a planned gift that will be added to the scholarship he created for NSU students who are graduates of Anacoco High School. "Mr.

Burns donated an insurance policy that will be put into his scholarship at the time of his death," said NSU Development Officer Jill Bankston, CFRE, right.

Burns established the Billy John and Judith Burns Scholarship in memory of his late wife in 2011 and has contributed to it over the years.

"The money I place in the scholarship is an investment in human beings and will return positive results forever," he said. "I want to encourage each of my fellow NSU graduates to consider establishing a scholarship fund."

Burns, who lives in Bossier City, earned a B.A. in education at NSU in 1954, M.A. in 1958 and plus 30 in 1966. Born and reared in Anacoco, he taught at Anacoco High School for 31 years working at various times as a social studies teacher, librarian, assistant principal, principal, girls basketball coach and co-sponsor of the yearbook. He retired for one year and moved to Shreveport, where he taught for 14 years at Calvary Baptist Academy and served as principal from 1990-2000. Events from his life and career are detailed in an autobiography, "One Last Stroll Down Memory Lane," completed in 2007.

Burns overcame tremendous physical challenges as a child and attended Northwestern on a rehabilitation scholarship.

"Ninety-five percent of my life is behind me and in my last few years I am interested in helping others because when I was at Northwestern so many people helped me," Burns said.

LQHBA donation supports Rose Long Scholarship for first generation students



The Louisiana Quarter Horse Breeders Association has pledged \$5,000 per year for the next five years to support the Rose Landry Long Scholarship for First Generation Students at Northwestern State University. Announcing the scholarship were, from left, NSU Development Officer Jill Bankston, LQHBA Executive Director Tony Patterson, Peggy Williams, LQHBA accreditations, out of state mares and memberships manager; LQHBA Board Member D. Michael Hayes, Sen. Gerald Long and NSU First Lady Jennifer Maggio and President Dr. Chris Maggio.



Mathews was pinned by his wife Kristine Coreil, mother Retta Mathews and daughters Devon and Lauren.

Mathews promoted to colonel

Northwestern State University Director of Bands Dr. Jeffrey C. Mathews has been promoted to the rank of colonel in the Air National Guard.

Mathews serves as Chief, Air National Guard Bands for the National Guard Bureau. He is the chief policy maker and advisor to all Air National Guard bands. The Chief of ANG Bands determines the readiness of ANG bands through technical inspections and staff assistance visits; recommends actions for improving the ANG band program to Director of the ANG, SAF/PA and NGB; develops policy guidance for the ANG band program; coordinates band policy issues; establishes qualifications and procedures for hiring and training new band officers and enlisted members and conducts band officer auditions to fill vacancies.

"It is an honor and I am humbled to have received this promotion," said Mathews. "My current position is extremely satisfying because I am the advocate for funding and manpower for the ANG bands at the National Guard Bureau and the Pentagon. I am also tasked with ensuring the musical quality of all the ANG bands through advisory visits and inspections."

Mathews was recently asked to be sure bands are ready to go for last minute high profile/high priority missions.

Mathews has served in the National Guard for 32 years. He was the commander and conductor of the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast from 1997 to 2011. He received his commission on July 2, 1998 from the Academy of Military Science in Knoxville, Tennessee. Prior to joining the Texas Air National Guard he served ten years with the 156th Army Band of the Louisiana National Guard and two years with the 132nd Army Band of the Wisconsin National Guard. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Horn of Africa with members of the Air National Guard Band of the Gulf Coast.

"Initially, I planned to do one six-year enlistment for the college benefits," said Mathews. "Thirty-two years later I'm still at it. The comradery, great friendships, patriotism and great music making kept me in over the years."

At Northwestern State, Mathews teaches music education, conducting, music theory and African-American music. He enjoys playing trombone in several rhythm and blues bands when not teaching or conducting. His professional memberships include Louisiana Music Educators Association, Texas Music Educators Association and the College Band Directors National Association.



WRAC named for Webb, NSU's longest serving president

Northwestern State University dedicated its Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center in honor of the late Dr. Randall J. Webb in a March 20 ceremony before a large crowd on what would have been Webb's 75th birthday.

Webb was the longest-serving president in the history of Northwestern State, holding the position from July 1, 1996 to Dec. 31, 2014.

"For 25 years, Dr. Webb stepped up to a microphone and said 'This is a red letter day for Northwestern State University! And this day truly is,'" said Northwestern State President Dr. Chris Maggio. "I am so proud to see so many people here to honor a man who was so special to so many of us."

Northwestern State students approved a referendum in 1998 to fund construction of the Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center. The \$6.9 million project converted the former Intramural Building into a 81,000 square foot facility which was completed in 2004.

Immediate past SGA President Tre Nelson experienced an example of Webb's feeling towards students the first time the two met at a party a few months before Nelson enrolled at NSU.

"He could have spent all his time talking to all the important people at the party, but he took time to get to know an incoming freshman at Northwestern. After talking for a few minutes, I found his words so genuine that all my fears about attending the university went away."

— Tre Nelson

Webb encouraged his friend Lola Dunahoe to serve on the NSU Foundation Board of Directors several years ago. Dunahoe became president of the Foundation board and was later appointed to the Board of Supervisors for the University of Louisiana System. Dunahoe called Webb "a scholar, a great leader, an encourager and a Christian gentleman."



The Wellness, Recreation and Activity Center at Northwestern State University was dedicated in honor of the late Dr. Randall J. Webb in a ceremony on what would have been Webb's 75th birthday. A portrait of Webb, the longest-serving president in NSU history, will hang in the facility. Participating in the unveiling of the portrait were, from left, immediate past SGA President Tre Nelson, Northwestern State President Dr. Chris Maggio, artist and graduate student Osvaldo Ferrer Miranda, Shayne Creppel, director of Greek Life and assistant director of student life, and Webb's widow Brenda Webb.

"Everyone at Northwestern had an opportunity to be encouraged by Randy," said Dunahoe. "He gave his best and expected it out of others. My life was enriched because I was able to call Randy Webb my friend."

Athletic Director Greg Burke said Webb was a "boss, mentor, advocate, supporter, fan and friend."

He said Webb never wavered in his support for the athletic program, and had strong views about what the program should be.

"When I interviewed for the position of athletic director, he told me that 'we are going to win, our student athletes are going to graduate and we will carry ourselves in the right way,'" said Burke. "I learned so much from him."

Interactive science classroom named for Dr. Philip Cole

Northwestern State University's School of Biological and Physical Sciences honored Dr. Philip Cole by naming a new interactive classroom the Philip A. Cole, M.D. Active Learning Classroom. The fluid classroom features moveable furnishings and learning accessories that encourage discussion, collaboration and engagement between students and with their instructor.

"Dr. Cole facilitated the communication between NSU and CHRISTUS Health System that resulted in the acquisition of funds for the project," said Dr. Francene Lemoine, director of the School of Biological and Physical Sciences.

Faculty and administrators arranged to surprise Cole and his family with the name unveiling following his induction in the Long Purple Line.

The classroom opening in Fall 2017 brought to fruition an idea hatched more than a year ago by Dr. Lindsay Porter, assistant professor of biology, who shared an article with Lemoine about class furnishings equipped with wheels that are convenient, accessible and allow students to collaborate more easily.

Porter's idea was to remodel a classroom to make it "student-centered, peer-interaction-centered. Not instruction-centered." With no funds allocated for remodeling, Lemoine reached out to the NSU Foundation network and eventually connected with Cole, who coordinated funding through CHRISTUS, one of the top 10 Catholic healthcare systems in the United States.

The fluid classroom makes it easier for students to learn in pairs or groups in contrast to the traditional classroom of stationary desks and student response was overwhelmingly positive, Lemoine and Porter said.

In addition to peer collaboration, Porter and Lemoine



A newly remodeled active learning classroom in Northwestern State University's Bienvenu Hall was named for Dr. Philip Cole, an NSU grad who facilitated funding of the innovative classroom through CHRISTUS Health Systems. From left are Dr. Francene Lemoine, head of NSU's School of Biological and Physical Sciences; Dr. Cole and his wife Delores and NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio touring the classroom.

say the new model of interaction and engagement helps instructors identify students who need more help grasping concepts.

The new classroom, commonly called The Fish Bowl, is located in Room 211 Bienvenu Hall. For information on NSU's School of Biology and Physical Sciences, visit sciences.nsula.edu or contact Lemoine at lemoinef@nsula.edu.

SON will welcome more than 100 new members this fall

The Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band has reached another recruiting milestone as more than 100 new freshmen will join them this fall, according to Director of Bands Dr. Jeffrey Mathews. This is the third consecutive year the band has recruited more than 100 new members.

"The reputation of the Spirit of Northwestern for its size and quality are extremely attractive to high school band students," said Mathews, who is in his fifth year as director of bands. "The quality also catches the eye of high school band directors that are in a position to advise their students about choosing a university. Many of our students are recommended by band directors that are not alumni but appreciate the product we are turning out and the education we are providing."

The Spirit of Northwestern Marching Band has been a finalist for the Sudler Trophy, an award to identify and recognize collegiate marching bands of particular excellence that have made outstanding

contributions to the American way of life. NSU's band participated in the New Year's Day Parade and Festival in London and the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Dublin, Ireland. Northwestern State's band was named one of the top eight in the country a college oriented website. Mathews was selected for inclusion in the 19th Annual 50 Band Directors Who Make a Difference Issue of School Band and Orchestra Magazine.

The recruitment process is year round and takes band directors throughout Louisiana, Texas and Florida. Several international students from Colombia have also joined the band. Mathews said alumni play a major role in recruiting.

"Our alumni believe in Northwestern State and they believe in the band program," said Mathews. "They are some of our best recruiters."

Among the new recruits is Chloe Farrar, who will graduate from Airline High School in Bossier City later this month. She

said NSU alumni helped recruit her to the Spirit of Northwestern.

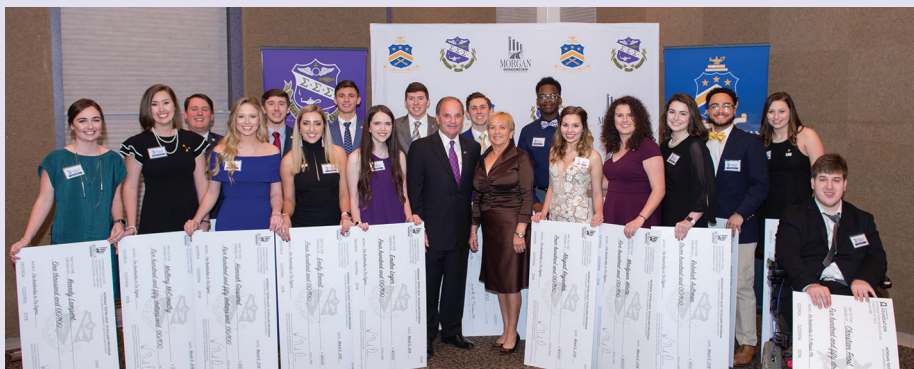
"All of the band directors that I've had were a part of the SON, so I've heard a lot about the reputation," said Farrar. "I know that the band is known nationwide and has always been known for their talent. This did influence me because I wanted to go to a school where I could not only pursue my degree, but also be a part of a great band program that is known for their excellence."

Farrar plans to major in biology with a biomedical concentration. The band includes students from a variety of majors. Most band members major in something other than music or music education.

Mathews said the band uses a four-pronged approach to recruiting students that includes personal visits to high schools across the region and hosting events throughout the year to bring high school band students to the NSU campus. The band also has an extensive outreach

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Morgans award Extra Mile, First Generation Scholarships



David and Sherry Morgan recognized this year's Extra Mile Scholarship recipients presented to members of Pi Kappa Phi and Sigma Sigma Sigma during the second annual Extra Mile Banquet. On the front row from left are Kenedy Lampert, Mallory McConathy, Hannah Gaspard, Emily Benoit, Emilee Leger, David and Sherry Morgan, Abigail Reynolds, Madysen Watts, Rebekah Aultman and Christian Frost. On back row are Thomas Marlborough, Michael Dailey, Noah Baudoin, David Johnson, Jacob Guidry, Char'Tarian Wilson, Dedrick Lewis and Morgan Horn.



NSU alumni David and Sherry Morgan presented First Generation Scholarships to members of Pi Kappa Phi and Sigma Sigma Sigma during a March 8 banquet at NSU. On the front row from left are David Morgan, Jordan Mitchell, Logan Esthay, Katelyn Baronne, Bethanie Couch, McKenzie Kuhlowl, Chloe Solomon, Emily Odom, Madysen Watts, Kaylee Couch, Mia Adams and Sherry Morgan. On the back row are Zachary Linville, Tyler Thomas, Char'tarian Wilson, Michael Dailey, Jacob Guidry, Joseph Magnan, Kelsi Horn, KayCee Collinsworth, Kylie Descant Bailey Patton, Blake Blanchard and Emily Miller. These students are the first in their immediate families to pursue college degrees.

David Morgan, a 1973 NSU graduate and alumnus of NSU's Beta Omicron Chapter of Pi Kappa Phi, established the Extra Mile Scholarship in 2008 to recognize members who distinguish themselves through academic success, chapter leadership, campus involvement and part-time employment.

The Sherry F. Morgan Extra Mile Scholarship was established in 2017 to honor NSU and Alpha Zeta Chapter Alumna Sherry Morgan and to recognize Tri Sigma members who best exemplify the ideals of scholarship, service and character.

Last year, the Morgans' contribution to the NSU Foundation created the First Generation Scholarships with one of the largest individual one-time gifts to the Foundation.

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program that involves taking the band on the road to high-profile football games, appearing as a guest band at high school marching contests from Dallas to Baton Rouge and maintaining a robust social media presence. The final part of the plan is developing and maintaining alumni relationships.

Mathews said the recruiting success of the band is a team effort. Assistant Directors Dan McDonald and Oliver Molina play a pivotal role as do Color Guard Instructor Estelle Murr and Demon Dazzler Instructor Renee Oates. The faculty of the music department and the NSU Office of University Recruiting also play an important role in the effort.

"The band directors travel extensively from New Orleans to Shreveport in Louisiana and from Houston to Austin to Dallas to Longview in Texas visiting with band students at many high schools," said Mathews. "Young Performers Day, our annual Classic on the Cane Marching Contest, and our summer camps bring thousands of band students to campus each year. Many students find us because their band director was an alumnus and continues to support NSU and the band program."

One of those outreach programs, an appearance at Parkway's Marching Contest, got Farrar interested in Northwestern State.

"I chose NSU because I remember sitting

in the stands at Parkway High School's Marching Contest my freshman year, and when the Spirit of Northwestern marched out on the field for exhibition, I fell in love," said Farrar, who has been Airline's head drum major for the last two years. "Ever since then, I've kept up with the band on social media and attended some of their camps and came to love the people and atmosphere surrounding the band. Dr. Mathews also promised that I could still pursue my love of music whole-heartedly and my degree at the same time."

The Spirit of Northwestern is raising funds for new uniforms. Visit NSU's youtube channel for more information. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQxLpGVTPQs>



2015, 2017 Graduate Damian Glover established two scholarships for NSU students, making the announcement at the historic Nichols School House on campus. From left are NSU Development Officer Brittany McNeely, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Vickie Gentry, NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, Glover, Director of Student Activities Yonna Pasch and Dr. Greg Handel, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Northwestern State University continues to support the uptick in engagement with young alumni, most recently with the creation of two scholarships by Damian Glover, who established the Glover Family Scholarship for a student in the College of Arts and Sciences and the Mary Minix Perseverance Scholarship for a first generation graduate student.

A native of Lafayette, Glover earned an undergraduate degree in English and Professional Writing in 2015 while was president of the Student Activities Board, vice president of Theta Chi Fraternity and president of Students with a Target (SWAT), was involved with The Current Sauce newspaper, KNWD Radio and the Miss Northwestern Lady of the Bracelet Pageant and was a peer mentor.

He earned his master's degree in Student Affairs in Higher Education at NSU in 2017 and is now pursuing a doctoral degree through the University of Louisiana at Monroe. He is also on staff at South Louisiana Community College as a student life and special projects specialist where he oversees a student services center that handles admissions, registration, academic advising, disability support, testing, career services and student engagement.

The Mary Minix Scholarship is particularly meaningful to him as a way to honor his grandmother who left school after third grade to clean houses and take care of her siblings.

"It is named in her honor because of the value on education she had and her belief in my dreams and her support," he said. "She taught me how to be prepared for life and the value of the hard work. She and my grandfather lived a good life that had everything they wanted and provided every opportunity for their children and made sure that education was number one. This scholarship will provide someone with an opportunity to continue furthering their education and starting a new tradition in their families."

Glover said his experiences at NSU prepared him for the real world as a professional.

"I was truly able to use all of the tools and skills that NSU has given me. I am grateful for the many opportunities that NSU has provided for me and keeps on providing me. Without them I wouldn't be where I am today, all of which began with an offer to be a student worker for [Director of Student Activities] Yonna Pasch. My time spent in the Office of Student Activities as a student worker and a graduate assistant, as well as my time spent as an intern in the Office of First Year Experience and the President's Office, have provided me with many experiences that I will continue to carry with me into the future.

Boise increases scholarship awards for CenLa students



From left are Dr. Jafar Al-Sharab, head of NSU's Department of Engineering Technology; Tommy Peek, Human Resources Generalist for Boise's Alexandria Operations, and NSU Development Officer Kimberly Gallow.

Boise Cascade Wood Products of Lena increased the amount of the scholarships they award to students from central Louisiana who major in engineering technology or computer information systems at Northwestern State University. The new commitment doubles the amount awarded to two students each year to \$1,000 per year. First preference is given to students from Northwood High School in Lena, then open to other Rapides or Vernon parish students. Students must have a grade point average of 2.5 or better to qualify.

"It is with great pleasure that we announce that Boise Cascade has increased their scholarship amount per year," said NSU Development Officer Kimberly Gallow. "We are proud to continue the productive partnership Boise Cascade forged at NSU and thank them for their commitment to helping students."

"Manufacturing companies such as Boise Cascade are in need of capable, energetic young professionals that can lead from the front and take control of the wood products future," said Tommy Peek, Human Resources Generalist for Boise's Alexandria Operations. "Everything we do and accomplish at Boise Cascade is driven by analytical performance gained only by the passion and dedication of its driving future. That future lies in the hands of the Demon Demographic."

Peek said Boise Cascade is looking for young professionals that drive change not only on the analytical or spectral front of engineering, but in people and what it takes to gain emotional /cultural buy-in at the highest level. Those sentiments align with NSU's commitment to working with industry partners to keep talent in Louisiana and strengthen the state's economy.

"We are extremely grateful to Boise Cascade for their outstanding support of our Engineering Technology programs," said Dr. Jafar F. Al-Sharab, head of NSU's Department of Engineering Technology. "Enrollment continues to grow in all our ET programs. Such scholarships represent a true manifestation of support to STEM-related fields. In addition, these scholarships will help us to meet the demand for technologists capable of using appropriate basic science including theory, mathematics and computational technology in support of Louisiana industry."



Seventy-four Northwestern State student-athletes and staff graduated May 11. Nineteen graduated with honors. Pictured with morning graduates are, front row from left, Alexis Guess, assistant academic coordinator; Joseph Biscoe, faculty athletics representative; NSU President Dr. Chris Maggio, Javon Guilbeaux, (sports information student assistant), Jasmine Juarez (soccer), Kylie Nodorft (track and field), De'Shalyn Jones (track and field), Taishia Holt (track and field), Dr. Haley Taitano, associate athletics director/senior women's advisor, and Athletic Director Greg Burke. On the second row are Antonie Godin (volleyball), Aaron Potoshnik (strength and conditioning coach), Jacqueline Rushford (track and field), Hunter Uzzle (baseball), Sage Leffew (soccer), Chandler Monk (soccer), Alex Latham (soccer), Kylie Spencer (volleyball), Riley Walker (men's basketball graduate manager), Trey McCrory (men's basketball director of operations) and Kaitlyn McCanna, assistant athletics director for student-athlete development. On the third row are Daniel Emirzian (women's tennis graduate coach), Ty Shilling (track and field), Erin Wrozek (track and field), Erin Sitarz (track and field), Shelby Drope (soccer), Amy Renteria (soccer), Kelsey Lewis (soccer), Libba Gilliam (women's basketball) and Carlea Ulrich, academic coordinator. On the fourth row are Eric Waters (football), Casey Johnson (sports medicine student assistant), Corey Johnson (sports medicine student assistant), David Fry (baseball), Mackenzie Geier (soccer), Victoria Morris (sports medicine graduate trainer), Jessica Lykins (soccer) and Kayla Velasquez (academic center graduate assistant). On the back row are Justin Barnes (football), Koby Welch (football), Eduardo Balderas (football), Lucas Morgan (football) and Odi Agbi (track and field).

Northwestern State graduates players of the year, other record setters in huge class

Two NCAA All-Americans and two Southland Conference players of the year were among the 74 Northwestern State athletic graduates receiving their degrees at spring commencement.

Track and field's George Flaviano and Ty Shilling were half of the 4x100 relay team that finished 15th at the 2016 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, earning second-team All-America status. Both runners won two Southland golds and were named to the All-Louisiana team twice.

Female counterpart De'Shalyn Jones won her second consecutive high-point scorer honor at the Southland Conference Outdoor Championships and appears to be headed for another Runner of the Year honor from the league. Jones has nine gold medals and owns three NSU sprint records.

Soccer goalkeeper Alex Latham was the Southland and Louisiana Goalkeeper of the Year in 2016, finishing her career ranked second in NSU history in saves and wins.

Other career record holders include baseball's David Fry, a three-time all-conference selection who broke NSU's doubles records with opportunities to break several other marks this season.

Track and field's Marquise Foster owns the hammer throw record set this March.

Tennis player Polina Ivanova finished her career ranked seventh all-time in singles wins, while soccer's Esdeina Gonzalez broke into the program's top-10 list in three different categories.

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Former Demon football player **Shur-Set Weaver** recently initiated an athletic scholarship endowment supporting student-athletes from Avoyelles Parish. Weaver joined the N-Club last year and observed other former student-athletes join the Perpetually Purple scholarship endowment program. He set up a weekly bank draft to grow his donation into an endowed scholarship and wants to set an example that young alumni with modest incomes can start giving back to our alma mater. Weaver, center, who was inspired by his second cousin Mark Duper to attend Northwestern, is pictured with Athletics Director Greg Burke and Associate AD Dr. Haley Taitano, director of the Demons Unlimited Foundation.

VICTORY TOUR 2018

THE ESCALATION

July 16 – New Orleans
Bobby Herbert's

July 17 – Baton Rouge
Superior Grill

July 18 – Lafayette - Ruffino's

July 19 – Houston
Dave and Buster's

July 23 – Many – Foy Motors

July 24 – Shreveport
Superior's Steakhouse

July 25 – Alexandria – Levee Bar

Players continued from page 14

Softball's Micaela Bouvier ranks in the top 10 in career wins and winning percentage, highlighted by an all-conference selection in 2015.

Track and field's Quanesha Jones-Young earned high marks in the high jump, being selected to the All-Louisiana team in 2017.

Fifty-seven current and former student-athletes and 17 staff members walked across the stage.

Arguably the most accomplished staff member is men's basketball's Trey McCrory, who was a 2017 national finalist for the "Most Courageous Award" by the U.S. Basketball Writer's Association.

Nineteen undergraduate student-athletes and staff graduated with honors.

Track and field's Kylie Nodorft, Jacqueline Rushford and David Mortiz and softball's Kaytie Proctor earned summa cum laude, compiling a GPA of at least 3.9.

Football's Hunter Bedgood, Andrew McAlister, Eric Piccione and Jordan Sennett, soccer's Latham and women's basketball's Libba Gilliam garnered magna cum laude (3.70-3.89 GPA)

Receiving cum laude distinction are soccer's Sage Leffew, Jasmine Juarez, Amy Renteria and Esdeina Gonzalez, tennis' Polina Ivanova, track and field's Erin Sitzarz and Hunter Wamack and student athletic trainers Casey and Corey Johnson.

Rhonda Rube Baird becomes first softball player inducted into Southland Conference Hall of Honor

Former Northwestern State All-America catcher Rhonda Rube Baird became the first softball student-athlete or coach inducted into the Southland Conference Hall of Honor, the league's highest recognition for former competitors and administrators.

Rube Baird was one of three Southland Hall of Honor inductees enshrined May 22 at the annual Southland Honors Dinner and Ceremony.

Baird becomes just the third female student-athlete in the Hall of Honor's membership, which rises to 50 with the 2018 class. She is NSU's eighth selection, joining track and field's Brian Brown, LaMark Carter and coach Leon Johnson, football coach Sam Goodwin, women's basketball coach James Smith, athletics director Tynes Hildebrand and longtime president Dr. Randy Webb.

Rube Baird, who played for the Lady Demons from 1989-92, became NSU softball's only All-American selection in program history when the Baton Rouge native earned third-team honors as a junior in 1991.

The catcher hit .341 with 44 RBIs and 60 hits that season despite pitchers attempting to work around her (26 walks). She was named the Southland's Player and Hitter of the Year, honors she won twice in her career.

Rube Baird was a four-time All-Southland Conference selection (three first-team honors) and a three-time Louisiana Athletic Director's Association Player of the Year.

She finished her career with NSU records for hits (215), doubles (45), batting average (.327) and walks (95). Her 45 doubles was a Southland Conference



NSU catcher Rhonda Rube Baird became the first softball player or coach inducted into the Southland Conference Hall of Honor. Rube is NSU softball's only All-American and was a four-time All-Southland Conference selection.

record at the end of her career and placed her 10th in NCAA history.

Rube Baird still remains second in the NSU record books in doubles despite softball becoming a more hitter-friendly sport. A quarter century after her career ended, she is still third all-time in walks and sixth in hits.

The Belaire High product made an immediate impact when she hit a career-best .342 en route to Southland Player and Newcomer of the Year honors as a freshman.

Her teams ushered in NSU's first golden era of softball under coach Rickey Mc-

Calister. The Lady Demons posted the first 40-win seasons (43-17 in 1990 and 44-18-1 in 1991) in program history with its first conference title in 1991.

Rube also became the program's first all-region selection in 1990 when she recorded 43 hits and 22 RBIs with 31 walks.

Her No. 27 jersey is one of only two retired in NSU softball history, joining No. 3 Ginger Craig, who played only her senior season (1987) in the Southland.

A member of the SLC's All-Time Softball Team selected in 2013, Rube Baird is a registered nurse in her hometown of Baton Rouge.

ENVELOPE INFO



Support NSU Athletics!

Donations to the Demons Unlimited Foundation help provide scholarships for over 350 deserving student-athletes each year, accounting for over \$250,000 in expenses for the Athletic Department. Simply put: We cannot do what we do without you. Your support allows us to remain competitive and continue to enhance the educational and athletic experiences of our student-athletes. Thank you, and Fork 'em, Demons!

Guess Who



Bat Girls for NSU's baseball team from 1980-81 are pictured here. Can you name them? Email jacksonl@nsula.edu with the correct answers.



The basketball players pictured with Coach Buddy Bonnette in the Spring Edition of Alumni Columns were Dickey Marze, Charlie Mason, Walter Litton and Chris Carter.



- 1938 – Helen Pietsch, Aug. 23, 2017, Ringgold
- 1949 – Capt. Oris Franklin Jackson (Ret), Jan. 29, 2018, Bossier City
- 1949 – Alma Elizabeth Collier Parks, March 9, 2018, Madison, Mississippi
- 1956 – Dr. Bobby Canterbury, April 14, 2018, Monroe
- 1956 – Clara Louise Thomas, Feb. 27, 2018, Forest Hill
- 1956 – Huey P. Thomas, Dec. 14, 2017, Forest Hill
- 1957 – Bobby Dowden, Feb. 12, 2018, Princeton, New Jersey
- 1957 – John Wingo Jr., March 12, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1958 – COL (Ret.) Lamy Chopin Jr., Sept. 20, 2017, Denham Springs
- 1959 – John Wheat, April 28, 2018, Garland, Texas
- 1961 – Jimmy Allen Adkins, April 15, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1961 – James Rex Fair Sr., April 14, 2018, Natchitoches
- 1966 – Donald Carroll, May 6, 2018, Lufkin, Texas
- 1974 – William Sexson, May 12, 2018, Leesville
- Tommy Lee Helaire, Oct. 28, 2016, Natchitoches

Looking Back

The Summer THE MOVIE Came to Our Town



Natchitoches native Robert Harling keeps an eye on the happenings on the set of the motion picture production of his hit off Broadway play, Steel Magnolias. Steve McCormick is the center of attention at a farewell party when fall term started and he quit his job as a production assistant.

Steel Magnolias' six lovely ladies, Julia Roberts, Olympia Dukakis, Dolly Parton, Shirley MacLaine, Sally Field and Daryl Hannah, attend their first press meeting in Natchitoches. The meeting was held in NSU's Student Union Ballroom.

The city of Natchitoches and Northwestern State University enjoyed a time as "Little Hollywood" from June-September 1988, thanks to Bobby Harling, Herbert Ross and the ladies who starred in "Steel Magnolias." A few notable memories include Dolly Parton singing during half-time of NSU's first home football game, accompanied by the Spirit of Northwestern, sweating through an extra Christmas Festival in September and the delight of the Easter Bunny in August. The movie was a great boost to community spirit as well as the economy with everyone hoping to spot a celebrity and most residents who were here "the summer the movie came to town" have a movie story to share.



Class of 1968 Golden Jubilee

Northwestern State University's Class of 1968 celebrated its Golden Jubilee, receiving second diplomas during May commencement. On the front row from left are Brenda Ann Chenevert Hughes, Jane Ann Fobes Martin, Diane M. Gunter, Elaine Ledoux Phares, Catherine Wall Bass, Mary Ann Provenza Bargmann, Gloria Jean Weaver, Martha Ann Quarles Grigg Hankins, Audrey Jo G. Weaver and Virginia Nora Dean. On the second row are Wanda Valentine St. Andre, Anita McDonald Muldowney, Peggy S. Daigre Howard, Katherine Elizabeth Eskridge Crawford, Roberta Purvis Bartee, Lela Mae Wilkes, Bonnie Methvin Stephenson, Rep. Terry Brown, John Rhett Ramsey Jr. and Lt. Gen (Ret) Joseph M. Cosumano Jr. On the third row are Larry Howard, Patsy L. Longlois, Lorraine A. Penrod, Jeanette K. Peterson-Teeter, Paula Wright Campbell Wright, Elizabeth Woodward Martin, Roy Heard Corley Jr. and Patricia B. Theriot. On the fourth row are Janie Welborn, Sophie S. Packard, Harold Dwayne Fuqua, Don Micheal O'Bier, Kenneth Lloyd Bass, Lewis S. Odom, James W. Ouzts, Barbara L. Hyde-Davidson and Arthur Michael Swanson. On the back row are Jack R. Wintersteen, Jimmie D. Hughes, Richard "Pete" D. Sturgis, Aston H. Parker, Cynthia M. Gherke Johnson and Jennet Van Neste Gray.